

HOUSE RESOLUTION 311
By Fitzhugh

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Gladys Carnell
Armour Carson Crain on the celebration of her
80th birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Gladys Carnell Armour Carson Crain will celebrate her 80th birthday on April 1, 2004, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of Mattie Webb Armour and Carnell Armour, Ms. Crain was born and raised in Lauderdale County; she had two half-sisters, Amelia "Sis" Carihfield and Geraldine Carihfield Vaughan, and two half-brothers, Joe Marley Carihfield and William "Bill Ed" Carihfield, and she attended Craig School, Ripley Grammar School, and Edith School before graduating from Ripley High School in 1942; and

WHEREAS, following graduation, she secretly wed her beloved Edward Montelle Carson before he joined the United States Army; after attending the University of Alabama for a time, she traveled with her husband to Camp Chaffee, Arkansas and Fort Knox, Kentucky before he shipped overseas; and

WHEREAS, she then went to work at a small country store in her hometown, where she applied the terrific work ethic that she had learned from her parents while working with C. N. Armour Construction Company during her high school years; and

WHEREAS, after Mr. Carson returned from World War II, the couple moved to Halls, where Montelle farmed and Gladys worked for a cotton gin before later returning to the family construction company on a full-time basis; and

WHEREAS, the Carsons made Halls their home and became highly respected members of the community; Mr. Carson's untimely passing in 1967 was mourned throughout the community and a great loss to many; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Carson became highly involved in her community, and she has given many years of invaluable service to Tennessee through her political and civic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the quality of her character and her leadership is well known through this State; over the years, she has been honored to serve as a Delegate to the National Convention in New York for Jimmy Carter, Lauderdale County Chairperson for Governor Bredesen's campaign, an Honorary Captain in the Tennessee Highway Patrol, and a member of the Vocational Education Board, University of Tennessee Development Committee, Democratic Executive Committee, Tennessee Housing Commission, Bicentennial Commission, and Tennessee Department of Children's and Family Services Steering Committee; and

WHEREAS, for her laudable and invaluable endeavors, she has been recognized as a member of the "Colonel Governor's Staff" by Governors Browning, Clement, Ellington, McWherter, and Blanton and with the State of Tennessee First Lady Award in 1976; and

WHEREAS, on July 31, 1970, she joined Bernice Edward Crain in holy matrimony; he shared his wife's love for civic involvement and was soon elected as Property Assessor of Lauderdale County, in which position he served with acumen and alacrity for sixteen years; and

WHEREAS, after living for a time on Mr. Crain's farm in Ripley, the Crains moved to the family home in Ripley, where they displayed their great devotion to family by caring for Gladys' father and two sisters in their later years; and

WHEREAS, Gladys Crain has always striven to maintain the highest standard of family values, and she is the loving mother of a daughter and son-in-law, Rebecca Ann and Larry, and the proud grandmother of three grandsons, Barry Armour, Monty Carson, and Ricky Joseph, and three great-grandchildren, Molly, Blake, and Jeff; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Crain has shown herself to be one of the truly great citizens of this State, and the members of this General Assembly we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to recognize such an outstanding citizen of the "Volunteer State"; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we join with the family and friends of Gladys Carnell Armour Carson Crain in celebrating her 80th birthday, thank her for her many years of dedicated service to the people of Tennessee, and wish her much continued success and happiness in all of her endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.